BUXTON MANUAL:

OR,

ATREATISE

ON THE NATURE and VIRTUES OF THE

WATERS of BUXTON;

To which is prefixed,

An Account of the External and Internal Use of Natural and Artificial

WARMWATERS

AMONG THE

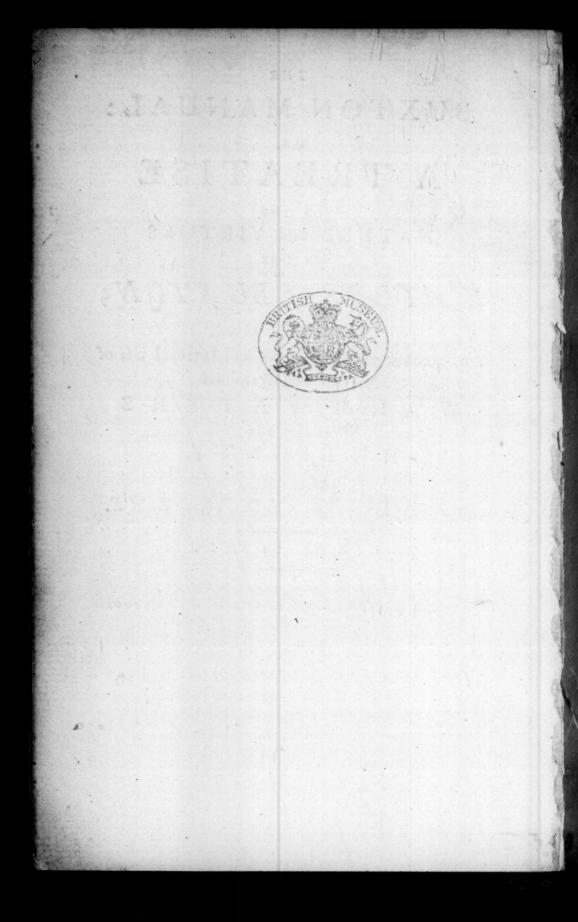
ANTIENTS.

By A. HUNTER, M.D. F.R.S. L. & E. The SIXTH EDITION.

Publica morborum requies, commune medentum Auxilium, præsens Numen, inempta Salus.

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TO

JOHN CARR ESQR.

AS A PRIVATE

TESTIMONY OF REGARD

FOR HIS

MANY EXCELLENT QUALITIES,

AS WELL AS A

PUBLIC APPROBATION

OF THE

ELEGANT BUILDINGS,

PLANNED AND EXECUTED BY HIM,

FOR THE USE OF

THE SICK AND INFIRM WHO

FREQUENT THESE BATHS,

THIS TREATISE IS

DEDICATED

BY

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

I Have no other motive for the publication of these observations, than a sincere desire to contribute to the ease and satisfaction of the insurm.

And as this Treatife may occasionally be consulted by persons unacquainted with medicine, I have, for that reason, endeavoured to make the whole as plain and concise as possible.

York, August 10, 1765.

TREATISE

ON THE

NATURE and VIRTUES

OF THE

WATERS of BUXTON.

CHAP. I.

Natural History of Warm Waters.

Believe I may venture to lay it down as a general rule, that there are few Diseases incident to the human Body which may not be palliated, or totally removed, by the judicious use of water, considered, according to the nature of the distemper, either as pure and elementary, or as saturated with principles of a medicinal quality.

Some

Some of the antient Philosophers distinguished the element of water by the appellation of Omnifeminaria, or Seminary of all created things. Diogenes Laërtius tells us, that Thales the Milesian was the first who taught this doctrine, and since his time a few of the moderns have in some degree adopted his system.

Agricola informs us that not only stones, but also several forts of sossils and metals have been discovered in a sost and yielding state; and from thence concludes, that water is the original basis of every natural production. If we examine the Embryo State of nature, we shall find a great deal of truth in this Observation. The hardest bones of Animals were once a sost Jelly, and the hardest grains and seeds were once a drop of viscid water, inclosed in a tender pellicle. Milton perhaps alludes to this Philosophy of Thales when he says,

His brooding wings the Spirit of God outspread,
And vital virtue infus'd and vital warmth
Throughout the fluid mass.

If we consider man in a state of health, we shall find the Earth productive of every thing necessary to keep him so. If we consider him as diseased, we shall find the same soil ready to relieve him. The bountiful Earth every where offers to his hand plants of a healing nature, and from her bowels pours forth medicated streams for his relief.

Every extensive Kingdom, that we know of, abounds with medicated waters both hot and cold. Thus we may observe the Author of nature studiously watching over the welfare of every nation of men. He regards not their complexion. The Æthiopian, the Cherokee, and the Cassian share, with the civilized European, the means of restoring health as well as preserving it.

Pure spring water has the appearance of a homogeneous sluid; but, upon examination, we find it heterogeneous, containing salts of different kinds and a portion of earth; principles not to be separated from it without extreme violence. Mr. Boyle endeavoured to separate water from its

earth

earth by repeated distillations, but after distilling it a hundred times over, it still continued to deposite some particles of Earth; from whence he justly concluded that there was no such thing in nature as elementary water.

Philosophers have differed much in their opinions about the cause of heat in warm waters; but I do not find that any of them have as yet been able to lay down an Hypothesis which is not liable to some objections. It is, no doubt, useful to know the different Strata through which the waters pass; but to conclude them hot or cold because they run through particular earths, is certainly too presumptive. Hoffman says that waters paffing through beds of the Pyrites Aureus become warm; but we know of waters absolutely cold, which run through the same kind of fubstance. It is indeed true that the Pyrites, when laid in heaps and watered, becomes warm, and emits a great deal of smoak; but to conclude from thence that the heat of Baths proceeds from the like process in the bowels of the earth, would be faying, in other words, that all

all hot waters pass through beds of the Pyrites, the contrary of which is well known. Again, if the Pyrites was the cause of heat, it will be difficult to understand how this heat should continue uniformly the same for so many ages: for when once the Pyrites is heated by water, as in the experiment upon it in the open air, it becomes decomposed, and the heat soon after ceases. Now, unless there should be a constant Supply of fresh Pyrites in those meanders through which the waters pass, I cannot conceive how this heat should be kept up so long, and with fuch an equal temperature; and we know it would be abfurd to suppose such a regular succession. What then occasions this heat in warm waters? I confess I know not. However, it is a fingular happiness that the point in dispute does not feem to be any great obstacle to our forming a true judgment of the virtues of medicated waters. Hoffman was not the first who ascribed the heat of mineral waters to this cause; Berger and Lister had done it before him.

Equal parts of Iron filings and Sulphur, made

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into a mass with water, will, in a few hours, grow exceedingly warm, and in time emit fulphureous flames. This experiment has induced fome Naturalists to imagine a mixture of these two bodies to be the cause of heat in all warm Springs. If the union of Sulphur and Iron were the constant cause of heat in medicated waters, we should always find them greatly saturated with those principles. But we undoubtedly know that the waters of Bath, in Somersetshire, contain only a small portion of Iron, and nothing of what really deserves the name of Sulphur; and those of Aix-la-Chapelle, though they contain Sulphur, give no figns of Iron; yet both of them are found to iffue warm from the earth, and retain their native heat a confiderable time. On the contrary, the Geronsterre water, though impregnated, to a confiderable degree, with Iron and Sulphur, is, notwithflanding, remarkably cold.

If we carefully examine all the principles impregnating hot waters, we shall find them so very different in different Springs, and so little proportioned to the heat in each water, as to make it

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from the quality of their respective minerals. Could we but once clearly demonstrate the cause of subterraneous fires and volcanos, we might then, very probably, reason with more certainty upon the present Inquiry; for it is commonly observed in Italy, and in the Island of Sicily, that there are several warm springs in the neighbourhood of those places where the subterraneous fires break out into slames and smoak; and in that part of Bohemia where the Caroline Baths arise, there were formerly eruptions of fire from the earth, as Agricola and Balbinus testify; and Hossiman tells us that the earth, in that district, was, in his time, warm, in many places, to the touch.

It will here be necessary to observe, that the heat of all these waters is various in degree, from the temperate ones of Buxton, Bristol, and Mallow in Ireland, to the hot ones in Iceland, which are said to be equal to the heat of boiling water.

The Chemical examination of mineral waters has, during this Century, been much attended to,

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and certainly a knowledge of the component parts of any heterogeneous substance must greatly assist in establishing its virtues upon a reasonable foundation. Hossman, whose great abilities in Physic as well as Chemistry every one is acquainted with, was amongst the first who gave us a just and true Analysis of mineral waters. Before his time it was usual to attribute their Virtues to Gold, Silver, Quicksilver, Tin, Lead, &c. as appears from the learned Andreas Baccius in his book De Thermis, and upon these erroneous data the Antients sounded their practice with regard to medicated waters.

CHAP. II.

The Opinion of the Antients on the external Use of Natural and Artificial Warm Waters.

THE custom of bathing in warm water, whether made artificially so, or slowing naturally from the earth, appears to have been very antient, but we do not find it used so early with a design to remove diseases. Warm Baths were in great repute among the Eastern Nations,

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as the Jews, Medes, Perfians, and Inhabitants of the Leffer Afia, but very probably were only used at first as purifiers of the skin from dust and fweat; inconveniences to which those nations, from the warmth of their climate and their manner of dress, must have been greatly liable. Luxury, in a little time, made them still more frequent; and we find that Xenophon, in describing the effeminate manners of the Persians and other Afiatics, calls them Balneatores, Pocillatores, &c. In the time of Hippocrates we learn, that bathing in fprings of warm water was recommended with a medical intention; and perhaps this is the most early authority we can produce of their use in medicine. Plato recommends them in feveral diseases, as well as for their admirable faculty of reftoring strength and vigour to bodies worn out by hard labour.

Aretaeus, who feems to have been prior to Galen, prescribes the warm sulphureous Baths in the Elephantiasis, and, on account of their relaxing property, recommends them much in the cure of Melancholy. Galen in many places takes notice

notice of the admirable Effects of warm bathing in various diseases, as abundantly appears in his Treatise De Temperamentis; and in Method. Med. he gives us very particular directions for bathing patients emaciated by a hectic sever.

A great deal more of the practice, with respect to bathing in natural and artificial warm waters, may be seen in the works of Cælius Aurelianus, Oribasius, Aëtius, Alexander Trallianus, and Paulus Ægineta.

It does not appear, from any part of antient history, that the Romans made use either of natural or artificial warm Baths till they became acquainted with the Greeks and Asiatics, among whom warm bathing, as I have observed, was carried to a great excess. At first the rich established Bagnios in their own houses for the convenience of themselves and visitors; but in a little time the custom of bathing became so prevalent, that it was esteemed to be as essential to health as nourishment itself. Hence we find the state provided Baths for the use of the poorer citizens, where

where they had the liberty of bathing at a small expence, as we learn from Horace;

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Agrippa, in his Ædileship, is said to have built upwards of one hundred public Baths. After his example, Nero, Vefpasian, Titus, Domitian, and many of the fucceeding Emperors, with a view to gain the affections of the people, erected public Baths, inriched with the finest marble, and built according to the rules of the most delicate architecture. At the first institution of private Baths among the most wealthy citizens, it does not appear that they studied magnificence so much as use and convenience; but as soon as the Roman conquests became considerable, and the practice of pillaging the Provinces began, we find they altered the original plainness and simplicity of their Baths, and vied with each other in the Elegance and Grandeur of them. Of these the Poet Statius fays,

Nil ibi Plebeium, nusquam Temesæa notabis Æra, sed argento felix propellitur unda, Argentoque cadit, labrisque nitentibus instat Delicias mirata suas, et abire recusat.

These superb Baths, however, were far inserior in beauty and extent to those called Thermæ, which were almost all built by the Emperors for the public use, and in which their principal view seems to have been to display their magnificence, nothing being omitted that could heighten the Idea of it.

Besides a number of rooms and other conveniences set apart for Bathing, there were places allotted, in these extensive buildings, for all the manly exercises of the body, as leaping, running, wrestling, throwing the discus, &c. and even for those of the mind, as it was customary for the Rhetoricians and Philosophers to assemble daily under the Porticos for the instruction of the youth. They also contained libraries, to which the studious were invited: Witness the samous Bibliotheca Ulpia, which had been placed by the Emperor

Emperor Trajan in the Forum Trajani, but afterwards removed to the Baths of Dioclesian.

It may not be improper to observe, that at these places persons of all ranks met to discourse upon the news of the city: Hence we may understand the reason why the poets gave them the epithet of Garrulæ. Works of genius and learning, as well as wit and humour, were frequently read there.

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The Thermæ of Dioclesian and Caracalla were the most extensive and remarkable of any built by the Emperors, many parts of which still remain. Lipsus assures us that those of Caracalla were so extensive that two thousand persons might bathe in them at the same time; and we are told that no less than forty thousand Christians were employed many years in erecting the magnificent ones of Dioclesian.

The pavement of these Thermæ was of marble and mosaic work, and the walls were covered with paintings of great value; but the prodigious number

number of marble statues, figures and vases, brought from the conquer'd Cities of Greece and Asia, constituted their greatest ornament. These, with the striking grandeur of the architecture, the beautiful and stately pillars, the curious vaulting of the roofs, and the number of spacious apartments, serve conspicuously to shew the riches and elegance of the Roman Emperors.

Thus much for the general account of the antient Baths, the truth of which is confirmed by the concurring testimonies of Antiquity. As to the parts immediately subservient to bathing, we find them but very imperfectly described either by the Antients or Moderns. Vitruvius, amongst the Antients, has given us their internal structure; but, upon a minute examination, he will be found to differ essentially from other writers upon the same subject. Public buildings, erected for convenience as well as ornament, may very well be expected to differ in the disposition of the parts intended for use; and that may account for the various descriptions transmitted to us of the internal parts of the antient Baths. Montfaucon,

in his Antiquities, has given us a fine view of the infide of a Roman Bath from a painting found in the Thermæ of Titus, which represents all the parts very distinctly.

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According to the best Authors, the place set apart for bathing confifted of fix rooms, which had a ready correspondence with each other. There was first the Frigidarium, where the Bathers undressed and rubbed; then the Tepidarium, or warm room, where they remained till the pores of the skin were gently opened; from thence they went into the Laconicum, which was some degrees warmer; and after staying there a short time they passed into the Sudatio, or sweating-room, where they were again rubbed, and fometimes anointed with oil; from thence they directly entered the hot Baths. The floors of these hot rooms were hollow on account of the Hypocaustum, which was a large furnace underneath, fupplied with wood, the heat of which was communicated to the stoves by means of the vacuity. The fame furnace also heated another room, called Vasarium, fituated near the stoves, wherein were placed C 2 three

three large vessels, called Milliaria, by reason of their capacity, one for hot water, another for warm water, and a third for cold; being so contrived that the water might be readily distributed by pipes and cocks into the neighbouring Baths, according to the occasion of the Bathers.

I must here observe, that the room called Laconicum is wanting in the painting above-mentioned, and the word is wrote over a kind of surnace; but Vitruvius expressy mentions it not as a
furnace, but as a sweating-room. Some pretend
that it was the same as the Tepidarium; but I have
ventured to proceed upon the authority of Vitruvius, who expressy says that the Laconicum
and Sudation are to be joined to the Tepidarium.
Laconicum Sudationesque sunt conjungendae Tepidario.
Vitruv. v. x. by which he plainly distinguishes
these three places.

The method of bathing was there very different from what is practifed at our Bagnios, for they never had their whole bodies immersed in water, unless by direction of the Physician.

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They usually seated themselves in the Bath upon a low feat, or stool, called Solium, with their legs, and sometimes their thighs, covered by the water. In the mean time the water, tempered according to their inclination, was poured upon their heads and shoulders, by slaves, from urns made for that purpose. Their bodies were well rubbed with a spunge, and scraped with a crooked instrument called a Strigil. This operation being finished they returned to the Sudatio, where they remained a short time; and passing through the Laconicum went into the Tepidarium. From thence they repaired to the Frigidarium, where they usually received a fprinkling of cold water; after which they were conducted into a room called Elaothefium, where they were wiped dry, and anointed with perfumed oils, and then dismissed to supper.

The veffel in which they bathed feems to have been contrived to receive only one person at a time, and was either of marble, oriental granate, or porphyry, though of an extraordinary size, as may be judged from those which have been found in the ruins of the antient Thermæ. Besides these large

darge bathing vessels, there were reservoirs of cold water for such as desired to exercise themselves in swimming; so that nothing was wanting that could add to the grandeur of the sounder, or contribute to the health or amusement of the citizens.

At the first establishment of public Baths there were distinct ones for the men and women; but in a little time they became common, with this difference, that each was waited on by slaves of their own sex. Adrian, perceiving the indecency of this custom, published an edict, prohibiting the promiscuous bathing of the sexes. Marcus Aurelius did the same; but Heliogabalus suppressed those ordinances, which were again revived, but with little success, by Alexander Severus: so that this indecent custom substitted a considerable time, even among the Christians, notwithstanding the many remonstrances of the ministers of the church, and was not entirely abolished 'till some time after the death of Constantine the great.

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CHAP. III.

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The Opinion of the Antients on the internal Use of natural Warm Waters.

IN the last chapter I have given a concise account of the antiquity of bathing in natural and artificial warm waters: I shall now examine into the opinion of the Antients concerning the internal use of medicated waters, and in the course of this Inquiry I shall take notice of what they say concerning the cold springs, as well as those which are hot.

Strabo, in his fifth book, makes mention of feveral springs which were serviceable when drank as well as bathed in; and Athenaus tells us of a fountain in Paphlagonia which had an inebriating quality, to which the inhabitants of the country frequently resorted.

Vitruvius has a whole chapter on warm and cold fprings, wherein he describes their medicinal virtues when used internally. He says that bituminous

tuminous waters are of great service in many disorders of the body, and in several places abundantly shews that the internal use of medicated waters was much attended to by the Antients.

Scribonius Largus, who lived in the reign of the Emperor Claudius, recommends the use of warm water, in which steel has been quenched, in several diseases of the bladder, and informs us that he learned this practice from observing the good effects of a certain chalybeate spring, famous for curing diseases of that part.

Seneca, speaking of warm and cold medicated springs, has these remarkable words, Quædam enim oculos, quædam nervos juvant, quædam inveterata et desperata a medicis vitia percurant. Quædam medentur ulceribus, quædam interiora sovent potu, et pulmonis ac viscerum querelas levant. Quædam supprimunt sanguinem.

Quæst. Natural. Lib. III.

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The waters of Spa are certainly very antient, for Pliny speaks of them, and particularly mentions the chalybeate taite which they leave on the palate after drinking. He also takes notice of a great many other medicated springs in Italy, Syria, Æthiopia, Greece, France, India, Arabia, Phrygia, Germany, and other countries, and bestows much pains in describing their virtues as well when externally applied, as when drank at the fountain. It is not quite clear whether Galen ever made use of medicated waters in any other manner than as Baths, though Le Clerc, from a very obscure passage, is inclined to think he did. Calius Aurelianus recommends the internal use of warm medicated waters, and gives us very particular directions concerning them. Those who are defirous of being more fully informed upon this subject, may consult the works of Oribasius, Aëtius, Alexander Trallianus, and Paulus Ægineta.

From all these concurring testimonies we may venture to conclude that the Antients held the use of mineral waters in some estimation, though,

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from their ignorance of Physiology and true Philosophy, their practice with regard to them appears imperfect. In general they took experience for their guide; but whenever they attempted to reason upon the nature and cause of diseases, they were fure to err, the functions and uses of the different parts of the human body being, in those distant ages, but imperfectly known. And here it may be proper to observe, that the divine Hippocrates feldom made use of Physiological reasoning in the cure of diseases; he trusted to observation and experience, and it is amazing to what certainty he brought his practice. How happy would it have been if many of his Successors had followed his example! Instead of bewildering themselves with idle Theories, built upon the most ridiculous foundations, they ought to have followed nature, and, like the divine Sage, traced her through her different meanders. She would have taught them wisdom; but, in medical, as well as in fome kinds of religious inquiries, professing themselves wise they became fools. Happily for us, the illustrious Harvey, in the year 1616, discovered the circulation of the blood. In confequence

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quence of this important discovery a more rational Theory of diseases was established, and Medicine, which for many ages had appeared as an occult science, instantly became clear and demonstrative. Theory and Practice are now happily united. Nihil est quod hac conjuncta non efficient, cum interim disjuncta parum prosunt.

Keil. Tentam.

CHAP. IV.

The Virtues of Buxton Waters.

AVING thus premised a general account of warm waters with their external and internal use, as prescribed by the Antients, I shall now begin to examine into the nature and virtues of those of Buxton: and first I propose to ascertain, as near as possible, their component parts; after which I shall give an account of the different diseases for which they may be prescribed as an internal remedy; and lastly say something upon the warm Bath, with proper observations

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upon its use, and in what diseases it ought to co-operate with drinking the waters.

The waters made use of by the company who resort to this place, are taken from a well dedicated to St. Ann. From several remains of Roman antiquity which have lately been discovered, it is probable that these waters were used very early as a bath; but the precise period when it became customary to drink them remains, as yet, unknown. The water that supplies the baths seems to be of the same nature with that of the well.

Experiments made upon the waters by Fahrenheit's Thermometer, shew them to be considerably colder than those of Bath, but some degrees warmer than those of Matlock and Bristol.

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Spring	_			66
Baths	-		_	68

To ascertain the solid contents of the waters, I ordered sour gallons of the water to be carefully evaporated over a gentle sire, and obtained sive scruples of a mix'd composition, whereof one drachm was a light blue coloured earth, and the remaining two scruples, by all the trials I could make upon them, appeared to consist of a native alkaline nitrous salt, with about an equal portion of marine salt. I know that Dr. Short, as well as the ingenious Dr. Rutty, who seems to proceed upon his authority, calls the salt truly nitrous; but I am very consident that the salt in these

these waters is not so neutral as the common nitre of the shops.

As to the earth, I could not perceive any principles in it, either fulphureous or chalybeate; so that I think it may be justly esteemed an inert absorbent earth.

I also tried the waters fresh from the spring, and sound them of a temperate warmth, quite clear and transparent, and not in the least betraying to the taste any signs of heterogeneous particles. Upon trial with several sorts of liquors they gave no signs of Iron or Sulphur in their composition, nor of any kind of acidity; on the contrary, they raised a gentle effervescence with spirit of vitriol; but that I esteemed more as a proof of their absorvent earth, than alkaline salt; which last, as I have observed, bore but a small proportion to the quantity of water and calcarious earth.

The Rev. Mr. Mellar, a late worthy incumbent of the parish of Buxton, informed me that he evaporated, at the desire of the late Lord Lonf-dale,

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three quarts, which were fent to London, and there chemically examined; the result of which examination was, that they were found to contain, besides earth, marine salt and nitre, a portion of bitumen, which had an aromatic smell, somewhat resembling the balsam of Guaiacum. However, I was not able to obtain the least appearance of such an ingredient: neither could I apprehend any reason to suppose the existence of what Dr. Short calls impalpable sulphur.

The experiments I made upon these waters were conducted with the greatest accuracy and attention; but as I have no great opinion of Chemical learning in these things, I have purposely omitted a detail of them. I am ready to acknowledge that the separation of the component parts of any unknown body, appears a rational method of arriving at the knowledge of its virtues; but after we have separated the different salts and other principles latent in mineral waters, we shall find, after all our labour, but very slender proofs from whence we ought to draw any practical inferences.

ferences. From a very early period the waters of Bath were supposed to contain sulphur and nitre; but we are now told, and perhaps with truth, that they contain neither; yet, notwithstanding this important discovery, we do not find the practice, with respect to them, either altered or amended. Chemistry may affist our inquiries, but experience must determine our opinions; and this observation bears the strongest application, when made to those waters commonly called calcarious, whose principles, every one considered separately, are-but very inactive. Besides, it may be proved, from reason and experiment, that the constituent principles of most natural bodies, when separated, are found to ad upon the human body very differently from what they would have done, if they had been permitted to remain united by the Chemistry of nature.

I am as sensible as any man of the great advantages that medicine has received from Chemistry within these last fifty years. I do not mean to reslect upon the Art or the Professors of it, I only blame them for shewing so much of the Chemist

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he ift Chemist and so little of the Physician; for if we examine the writers upon mineral waters, we shall find, in general, near two thirds of their works taken up with experiments and corollaries, as if the practical part of medicine were of little or no service to the community.

Notwithstanding what the Chemists may say to the contrary, I am convinced that a just representation of cases, with proper observations upon them, will be found, after all, to be the most rational method of arriving at the true knowledge of the virtues of mineral waters.

I have therefore endeavoured to avoid what I here censure, by barely mentioning the contents of the waters as they appeared to me from experiments; and by that short method I have made those pages subservient to Medicine, which are usually devoted to Chemistry. An exchange, I hope, for the better.

Buxton waters, in common with a great many others, are observed, upon first drinking, to affect the

the head with a fort of inebriating giddiness, attended with a sense of universal sulness and drowsiness; but after using them a sew days these sensations go off, and are seldom or never perceived afterwards. This quality in waters does not seem to have escaped the attention of the Antients; Athenœus and Vitruvius make mention of it, and Ovid poetically describes it:

Cui non audita est obscænæ Salmacis undæ? Æthiopesque lacus? quos si quis faucibus hausit, Aut surit, aut mirum patitur gravitate soporem.

. Metamorph.

The spirit, or gas, that occasions these appearances is so extremely sugitive, that it immediately slies off when exposed to the air; for which reason all waters must be best when drank at the sountain. I am inclined to think that a great deal of the virtue of medicated springs proceeds from the grateful sensation produced upon the tender coats of the stomach by this volatile spirit, besides what may arise from its increasing the motion of the blood, and forwarding the circulation of the sluids

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in those vessels which naturally feel but little from the impulse of the heart and arterial system.

This volatile gas is most apparent in those waters which are commonly, though improperly, termed Acidulæ, and in a small degree is observed in the calcarious kinds, such as those of Buxton, Matlock, Bristol, and Mallow in Ireland.

It is usual to attribute the virtues of mineral waters to their volatile gas, falts, and earth, having little regard to the pure element; but I am of opinion that as the contained quantity of these principles is fo fmall in each dofe of the waters, they ought in general to be confidered only as affiftants, and not as very active agents in themselves. Hoffman tells us that the waters of Schleufingen, in the principality of Henneberg, are of admirable fervice in the Stone and Gravel, Gout, Rheumatifm, and Scurvy; yet they are found to contain not the least portion of mineral matter. The same may be faid of the baths of Teoplitz in Germany, of the waters of Pfeffer in Switzerland, and those of E 2 Pifa.

Pisa, Tetuccia, and Noceria, in Italy, whose contents no way differ from those which are observed in pure spring water. The waters of Malvern, Ilkley, and perhaps Bristol, may be considered in the same light. All these, notwithstanding, are found to be effectual remedies in many diseases. Whence then proceeds their efficacy? Certainly from the elementary water which is their basis.

As Buxton waters, and those of the calcarious kind, seem to have no operation different from common water, except in being a little more diuretic, we may reasonably suppose them to produce their good effects more by the elementary water, which is their basis, than by any other of their principles.

Pure water, as it betrays neither taste nor smell, must be admirably calculated to correct the acrimonious state of the sluids, from whatever cause it may arise; and if any thing upon earth can be considered as an universal remedy, it must be water.

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A steady and uniform course of this pure element, assisted by exercise and a proper regimen in diet, will do more in removing some diseases than all the pharmaceutical preparations that we know of.

The subtilty of the parts of water is visibly shewn by the samous Florentine experiment of pressing it through the pores of gold, and from thence we must suppose it very capable of passing through the minutest vessels of the body; but it must be forcing and deterging in a more particular manner, when it happens to be impregnated with soffile falts and the volatile principle abovementioned.

The blood of a person in health betrays no signs either of an acid or alkaline nature; but is persectly mild and neutral, containing salts resembling Sal Ammoniacus; however, in many diseases it is known to incline to an alkaline nature, though it is much doubted whether it ever approaches towards an acid. For my part I am inclined to think it does, and believe that an universal

universal acescency, though least suspected, is frequently the cause of many chronic diseases. Those people who have long lived on a crude farinaceous diet, and indulged in the free use of fruits of every kind, are constantly observed to have their bowels weak and full of wind, which is evident from their four eructations. when once the chylopoietic organs are become weak, and rendered unfit to subdue and concodt their vegetable contents, no wonder they are carried into the blood with a strong taint of their own nature, which is an acid; and fo in process of time there is reason to suspect that the blood will become more acescent than is consistent with the welfare of the individual. It is a common and just observation, that in such persons the bile, which is by nature prone to putrefaction, has become watry and inactive, fo that it has little or no power over the acescent diet. And that this correction of acescency is one of the material uses of the bile, is evident from the common experiment of mixing bitter herbs with malt liquors, to prevent their growing four. In some difeases the sweat has been observed to smell remarkably

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emarkably four; and I remember some years ago, uring my attendance upon a patient who laboured under a nervous disorder, attended with great inactivity of body and dejection of spirits, that the bed-cloaths, every morning, smelt truly acid. Van Swieten consists this observation, when he says, In morbis languidis aliquando sudor acidum spirans observatur.

A long and continued use of vegetable acids is known to melt down the red part of the blood. Hence young ladies who have indulged in the free use of vinegar and other acids, with an intention to keep themselves thin, are frequently observed to fall into a bad habit of body, which is often not to be corrected by the most judicious management. In them we observe an universal laxity and paleness, occasioned by the dissolving power of the acids. As the whole method of cure confifts in restoring the broken texture of the blood, and removing the obstructions in the glands and small vessels, there may be reason to expect great advantages from the use of mild alkalescent and absorbent remedies, such as the waters of Buxton.

I have endeavoured to shew that the blood may sometimes be of an acescent nature; and when that is the case, in whatever shape the disease appears, I believe nothing can be of more service than these waters, if continued a proper time.

Buxton waters are of particular service to people who are subject to bilious cholics; but the patient must be careful to assist them by observing a suitable regimen in his diet, avoiding all things of a hot stimulating nature, or such as have a tendency to exalt the humours. In this disorder they seem to operate by diluting the acrimonious bile, and thereby abating its stimulus; but as the retention of that humour, in its acrimonious state, may be attended with bad consequences, the Physician ought frequently to interpose gentle doses of rhubarb.

There is a cholic which attacks people of a scorbutic habit, and which seems to derive its origin from the acrimonious state of the humours.

Buxton waters are found to be of singular service in that disorder, especially when accompanied with

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with fuch remedies as tend to correct the imurities of the blood. In the flatulent cholic mey are not much to be depended on, unless flifted by warm strengthning remedies; other waters of a more stimulating quality are therefore to be preferred.

In the habitual Cardialgia, commonly called the Heart-burn, they are found to be very useful; but to prevent a return of the disease after the waters are left off, the patient should have recourse to such remedies as are known to strengthen the coats of the stomach.

These waters, in the gentlest manner possible, restore the tone of the Stomach and Intestines, after severe Diarrhæas and Dysenteries, contracted at sea, or upon land; but the patient should be advised to begin with small doses, increasing the quantity as they are sound to agree. A sew grains of rhubarb, every third or sourth day, will be proper.

They are much recommended in habitual vo-

mitings from too great irritability of the coats of the stomach, and in all disorders of the stomach and bowels, where gentle absorbent and strengthning things are proper, they may be prescribed with advantage: but as they sometimes prove too cold upon the stomach at first drinking, they may be corrected by mixing a tea-spoonful of tincture of cardamoms in each dose, until they are brought to agree without its assistance.

The fluor albus and immoderate fluxes of the menses, whether from laxity or an impoverished state of the blood, are gently and safely restrained by the use of these waters. In these complaints the warm bath must be absolutely forbid, and the patients should be advised to bathe in cold water.

Those who are subject to fits of the gravel frequently find great benefit from these waters, for they gently deterge the secretory vessels of the kidneys, and at the same time strengthen their tone, which is generally weak in such people, as Hoffman judiciously observes: Toni renalis nimia

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nimia refolutio, morborum qui renes occupant, potissima causa et origo est. Qua de causa, temperata astringentia et roborantia, in calculo tam preservando quam curando, palmam cæteris arripiunt.

It is an opinion commonly received, that the waters of Buxton are similar in their nature and effects to those of Bath, and on that account many gouty people endeavour to feek relief at Buxton, influenced by the vicinity of the place to their own habitations: but I am well affured that there is a most essential difference, both with respect to the drinking waters, and the bath. For in these waters we do not find any of the principles fufficiently heating, or of force enough to hasten the formation of the gouty matter, in order to its being thrown upon the extremities; neither are the waters of our bath sufficiently warm to relax the veffels for receiving it when it is formed. I have indeed, more than once, observed people to have a fit of the gout during their residence at Buxton; but then they were fuch as had a great deal of it in their constitution, and needed but little affistance to bring it on.

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I would be understood to mean this only as a general observation; for there is a kind of inflammatory gout, for which the waters of Bath are by no means proper. In such cases those remedies which have a less degree of stimulus are always found to answer best. In that kind of gout the waters of this place are excellent.

Though the waters of Bath have greatly the advantage over those of Buxton, in almost all diseases which require a brisk motion of the blood and a powerful relaxation of the solids, they are, notwithstanding, much inserior to them in the cure of other distempers, as I shall endeavour to shew in a subsequent part of this treatise.

These waters have been samous, from the most early accounts, for the cure of rheumatic complaints, and in several kinds of the palfy they are deservedly to be preferred to Bath. There are two kinds of rheumatism, the acute and the chronic; but as the acute rheumatism does not require the use of the waters, I beg to be understood, throughout this treatise, as speaking of

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the chronic kind. This disease, both in its acute and chronic state, was known to the antient Greek and Arabian Physicians, but is better described by the Moderns, for this plain reason, that their climates were warmer than ours, and confequently not fo apt to produce the difeafe. Obstructed perspiration is the most frequent cause of this difease, and whatever gently opens the pores of the skin must be expected to contribute to the cure; hence we may plainly fee in what manner warm bathing produces such remarkable good effects. In the chronic rheumatism the blood is observed to be fizy and thick, but not so membranous and glutinous as the Pituita inflammatoria in pleuritic patients, nor fo foft and yielding as what the Antients called Pituita mucofa, observed in the blood of ricketty children. As I am defirous of introducing as little Theory as possible, I shall not attempt to explain the particular manner by which these waters attenuate this lentor. I shall therefore only take notice of it as a fact supported by experience, which must be allowed to be the strongest evidence.

It is observable that those who go to Buxton on account of rheumatic complaints, find their pains increase after bathing, and drinking the waters for a few days, and perceive a fensation of fulness and uneasiness all over their bodies; but this is no unpromising sign, as it denotes that the impacted matter is attenuated and again abforded into the circulation, which before had been obstructed in the small vessels running between the fibres of the muscles, and upon their tendinous expansions. They ought therefore to perfift in bathing and drinking, taking care to avoid cold, which might prove of bad confequence, and endanger an attack of a rheumatic fever. If any particular joint be more affected than the rest, it must be well pumped and rubbed with a flesh-brush, in order to attenuate the impacted matter; but if, notwithstanding this treatment, the joint should continue rigid, it will be advisable to bathe it in the waters made warm by an artificial heat; and as the benefit of the pump cannot be obtained under fuch circumstances, the water may be poured upon the afflicted member from a tea-kettle. When the **fwelling** ton

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swelling happens to be of a cold and indolent nature it will be proper to rub it with fome penetrating application, fuch as the Linimentum saponaceum; at the same time a decoction of Guaiacum, with a few drops of any volatile alkaline spirit, may be used with freedom: but the most ready method of resolving rheumatic fwellings, and relaxing contracted ligaments, is to expose the limb to the steams of boiling water, and afterwards to rub the parts affected with the foftest oils. By this penetrating fomentation I have feen many rigid members restored to a great degree of mobility, after they had refisted the usual emollient applications. When the patient is freed from all his complaints, and the muscles and joints are become sufficiently moveable, he should be advised to bathe for a week or ten days in the fea, or any cold fpring, in order to brace up the weakened veffels, without which there is no fecurity against a relapse.

The electrical shock is a remedy much recommended for the cure of fixed rheumatic pains, and, within these sew years, I have seen some remarkable The modus operandi of electricity has not hitherto been fully explained; but if we may venture to form any judgment of it from its effects, we must suppose it to be one of the most rapid and penetrating things in nature. Experiments teach us that the texture of metals may be dissolved by its impulse, and how much more readily must the viscid rheumatic matter be agitated and attenuated? A spring and oscillation is at the same time given to the obstructed vessels, by which means they more readily free themselves from the impacted load, and send it back again into the common course of the circulation.

Those who are subject to the rheumatism, should constantly observe to keep the pores of their skin sufficiently open; for which intention there is nothing better than the frequent use of the slesh-brush. I have known many rheumatic people receive great benefit from wearing a slannel shirt next their skin, which we know, from reason and experience, is a powerful promoter of insensible perspiration.

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These waters are serviceable in the scorbutic rheumatism, a disease which commonly attacks women, and men of a weakly constitution. It differs essentially from the genuine rheumatism. Its attacks are more irregular: They are seldom attended with any degree of sever, and rarely occasion any swelling. The judicious Sydenham has given us an excellent history of this disease.

It is usual for the gout, after a severe attack, to leave a great weakness upon the afflicted joint, which, if not properly braced up when the pain is gone off, is fometimes attended with inconvenience. The Baths in Somersetshire do not feem calculated for this intention, on account of their too relaxing quality. Buxton Bath is always found to answer in cases of this nature, which may very reasonably be expected, as it has a fusficient degree of coldness to brace up the relaxed fibres. If any gelatinous matter has fetled under the vaginæ of the tendons, or upon the ligaments, which is very common, it may be attenuated by remaining in the bath a longer time; and thus, according to the nature of the cafe. case, the patient may gradually shorten the time of bathing, till he arrive at a single immersion.

Buxton waters are in great repute on account of their fuccess in paralytic disorders. I am afraid Physicians do not always sufficiently attend to the nature of the palfy: for without ever confidering the cause of the disease, they are apt to recommend the frequent use of the cold bath as the only means of recovery. It generally may be faid that the hot baths are better adapted to the cure of paralytic complaints, though, in many cases, the cold bath may be preferable to the hot. However, this necessary distinction is seldom made, as most people are fond of repairing to the same place where their friends have received relief, not considering that though the disease be the fame, yet it may proceed from an opposite cause, and confequently must require an opposite treat-This practical error, as well as a great many others, is owing to an imperfect knowledge of physiology, which often prevents Physicians from diftinguishing the remote from the proximate cause of a disease, so that they are obliged

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bliged to prescribe to the name only; a practice s common as erroneous. Dr. Mead observes, that paralytic patients are often seized with fits of an apoplexy immediately upon coming out of the warm baths, which indeed may be readily accounted for. If the palfy be of that kind called a Paraplegia or Hemiplegia, both which are commonly the crifis of an apoplexy, there is reason to apprehend a return of the original disease from the rarefying power of the water, and more especially if the patient be of a plethoric habit. I can hardly be brought to think that the celebrated author above-mentioned meant absolutely to condemn warm bathing in every species of the palfy, and in all its stages, though I must confess that what he says in his Monita et Precepta Medica, will bear no other interpretation than that warm bathing is hurtful His words are, Immersiones to all paralytics. salidæ paralyticis omnibus nocent. Lest the severity of this fentence, pronounced by fo great a man against Bath waters, might have too powerful an influence over many paralytic people, Dr. Summers thought it necessary to produce the ac-G 2 count count of the General Infirmary at Bath, wherein he made it appear that a great number of patients labouring under every kind of palfy, had received relief from the warm baths. For my part, I believe much may be faid on both fides; but as this Performance will not admit of discussing the point in its full extent, I shall therefore leave it to be determined by others, and content myself with enumerating a few causes from whence palsies proceed, and leave the intelligent reader to his own judgment in the choice of the hot, temperate, or cold baths.

I may venture to say that most passies proceed either from a retention of the natural perspiration, or from some morbid or critical matter falling upon the brain, medulla spinalis, or vaginal coat of the nerves, instead of being regularly expelled through some of the emunctories. The last kinds frequently succeed acute diseases, as Van Swieten, in his Commentary, observes. The ill effects of retained perspiration we may learn from Hippocrates, who says that during a continued moisture of the air, with a northerly wind,

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wind, Paraphlegias were almost epidemical; and Sanctorius, in his 67th Aphorism, explains the above observation, when he tells us that the natural perspiration flies off faster in cold dry weather, than when the air is cold and moift.

Daily observation informs us that palsies are often produced by lying in damp beds, or upon the ground exposed to a moist air; and in such cases it is apparent that a retention of the perspirable matter is the cause of the disease. The indication of cure directs us to open the pores of the skin by means of warm bathing, and cordial fudorific remedies. What could be expected from cold bathing in fuch cases?

It sometimes happens that palsies proceed from an absolute relaxation of the muscular parts, without any previous obstruction in the brain. nerves, or blood-vessels. This kind of palfy is generally hereditary, and attacks the patient by flow degrees, and for the most part is partial either to the upper or lower extremities. In fuch cases warm bathing would be certain destruction,

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while, on the contrary, the cold bath is plainly indicated.

The gout is sometimes observed to throw a little of the critical matter upon the brain or medulla oblongata, and fometimes upon the vaginæ of the nerves, at some distance from their origin. In fuch cases it may be judicious practice to prescribe the hot baths in Somersetshire, with an intention to attenuate the gouty matter, and to folicit its expulsion upon the extremities; but if fo long a journey should be inconvenient, the patient may, with nearly the fame advantage, make use of a Bath of Buxton water made some degrees warmer than natural, by means of an artificial heat, according to the improvement which I shall propose when I come to speak of the mechanical action of warm water upon the body.

When the bleeding piles have been imprudently stopped by topical remedies, the viscid blood, instead of being regularly thrown upon the hæmorrhoidal veins, sometimes falls upon the

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the origin of the nerves, and produces an Apoplexy, Paraplegia, Hemiplegia, or a Palfy of the upper or lower extremities. The Menstrua, when obstructed, have been known to produce the same diseases; and it is a common observation that palsies do frequently arise from imprudently repelling some eruptions of the skin. In the above cases it evidently appears that cold bathing would be highly injurious, while, on the contrary, warm bathing, by its relaxing property, would prove of the greatest benefit.

As I have frequently made mention of the word Paraplegia, it will not be amifs to observe that the Antients did not receive it in the same sense that we do. With us, an inability to motion in all the voluntary muscles below the head, is called a Paraplegia; but by the Antients, a Palsy of any of the members of the body was distinguished by that name. Thus Aretaeus, after observing that Apoplexies, Paraplegias, and Palsies were much of the same nature, says, Paraplegia autem est tactus motusque remissio, sed in membro uno, utpote manu vel crure.

It is a common practice to apply warm stimulating things to paralytic muscles; but these can be of little or no fervice, as the cause lies at the origin of the nerve. Thus, if the inferior extremities are affected, all our topical applications should be made to the lower Vertebræ; but if the upper extremities are paralytic, then our applications ought to be made, as near as possible, to the origin of the fifth, fixth, and feventh cervical nerves, and first of the dorsal. The whole of this practice is distinctly laid down by Alexander Trallianus; his words are, Si igitur ex superioribus partibus quædam affectæ fuerint, nempe oculus, nasus aut lingua, aut quædam in facie, constat, quod ipsum cerebrum babeat morbum, illique primario succurendum sit; si ergo nulla ex prædictis partibus sensu aut motu aut utroque læsa fuerit, necesse est Spinalem medullam laborare, aut aliquem nervorum ex ipsa prodeuntium affectum esse, statuere. Attendito igitur diligenter, quæ sit pars affecta, aut unde initium trabat, aut a qua vertebra id aut nervo recipiat, atque illi curationem adhibeto: non autem, ut vulgo, symptomatibus tantum absistito. Itaque resolutas partes sic internofcere oportet, animum scientiæ anatomicæ adhibendo. Lib. 1. cap. xvi.

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The waters of Buxton are of fo happy a temperature that they may be used either as a warm or cold Bath. The instant a person plunges into the water he receives a shock, nearly equal to what is felt upon going into river water in the middle of fummer. In a few minutes the fenfation of coldness goes off, and a most agreeable warmth succeeds, and if the patient remains in the Bath long enough, a relaxation of the veffels and muscular parts will ensue. This may justly be esteemed among the chief properties of Buxton water, in which it very widely differs both from Bath and Matlock; for in the one the waters are too hot, and in the other too cold to enjoy this advantage. When any obstructed matter has fettled upon the Vaginæ of the nerves and occasions a pally, or upon the ligaments, &c. fo as to bring on rheumatic pains, the sudden shock from the coldness of the water, and the rarefaction and relaxation that afterwards succeed, will do more in removing it than any of the hot Baths, which

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are only capable of relaxation and rarefaction. As foon as we are fensible that the obstructing cause is removed, we must then discontinue the use of the warm Bath, and advise the patient to have recourse to the cold Bath, with an intention to brace up the relaxed muscles.

Let us now, in a more minute manner, attend to the effects of the Bath upon the body, and we shall from thence be able to determine in what diseases it ought to be prescribed, and in what it ought to be forbid. By the fudden shock the blood is instantaneously driven from all the vessels which are near the furface, and of confequence is impelled upon the internal parts, which it continues to load as long as the external veffels are contracted by the cold. The muscular fibres are made to approximate to one another, and the smallest vessels, as well as the largest, are made to embrace their contents with a fudden fpring. The heart labours, by frequent and strong contractions, to propel the fudden torrent of blood thrown upon its right Auricle and Ventricle, and the lungs, through which it must pass, receive

it with difficulty. Hence it is obvious that those who have weak lungs should proceed with great caution in the use of the Bath.

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In a few minutes an agreeable warmth fucceeds the former fensation, and the blood, which before had been impelled upon the heart, lungs, and abdominal viscera, is now forced back again towards the furface, by the increased action of the heart and arterial fystem. By these reciprocal actions the blood is increased in volume and momentum, and as the folids, at this time, are evidently in a state of relaxation, the red globules are enabled to pass through some vessels which before were only pervious to those of the serous order. During this universal relaxation the bibulous veins upon the furface of the skin have an opportunity of drinking up the most elementary parts of the water, and the exhalant arteries, for the fame reason, are encouraged to breathe forth their contents with freedom. At the same time fome part of the water must be supposed to infinuate itself between the fibres of the muscles to ferve as a foftening fomentation to them, and H 2 thereby

thereby affift in removing diseases arising from a rigid fibre. I do not find that the pores of the fkin can at any time be so much relaxed, by these waters, as to be the means of producing such copious sweats as are usual after coming out of the Baths in Somersetsbire. In many cases this . may be the great advantage of the waters of Buxton, and yet a greater degree of relaxation is frequently required. At present the natural temperature of these waters confines and limits their efficacy to certain diseases, but I am happy to fay that by an eafy process they may be brought to any determinate heat, without occasioning the fmallest alteration in their component parts. circumstanced, they may become a powerful rival to the waters of Bath, in the cure of all diseases where temperature alone is the medical confideration.

The noble structure lately erected for the accommodation of the Public, by which the number of Visitors have been greatly increased, calls
for many additional Baths. And as there is plenty
of water ready to burst from every part in the
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neighbourhood of the Crescent, there can be no reason assigned why the Baths of Buxton may not be made to vie, in number and elegance, with those so judiciously constructed at Bath.

There are few diseases which require bathing above once in twenty-four hours, and according to the nature of the case the time of remaining in the bath must be shortened or protracted. it be short it operates much after the manner of a river bath in the height of summer; but if the patient chuses to remain in the water above four minutes, the relaxing power of the Bath will then begin to take place. The morning, about an hour before breakfast, is the usual time for bathing; though any time of the day may be proper, if not too foon after eating. Few people drink above three pints of the water in a day; but if their stomachs can well bear it, and the nature of the case requires it, they may safely increase the quantity. The only fensible operation of thefe waters is by urine; and as it fometimes happens that they do not pass off freely, it will be advisable to take a tea-spoonful of sweet spirit of nitre

nitre in the first glass of the water, and afterwards take the air on horseback, or in any other manner, so as to shake the abdominal viscera. This method seldom or never fails of success.

The best way of drinking the waters is to begin with small quantities, and increase the doses as they are found to agree; but as it is impossible to lay down rules which can be absolute, either with respect to their external or internal use, the Patient should always consult his Physician before he enters upon them. - It is a very good method to drink the waters for a few days before bathing; and as they are apt to occasion costiveness, it would not be amis to use a little lenitive electuary, or any other fuitable laxative, to prevent that inconvenience. In very plethoric habits bleeding ought to be premifed. When the waters occasion too great a degree of febrile heat, the body may be occasionally cooled by a few doses of the purging neutral Salt, known by the name of Brafil Salts.

There is one thing I most earnestly recommend, and that is, not to indulge the appetite which these

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these waters give; for though the stomach be sufficiently strong to receive its contents, and the chylopoietic and sanguisying organs able to assimilate them into good blood, yet there is reason to sear that a sulness too suddenly induced may prove of dangerous consequence. Semel multum et repente vel evacuare vel replere periculosum. Hippocr.

It is a common practice at Buxton for people to indulge themselves with the free use of butter in a morning; but I would advise them to be more moderate in that article, as it is apt to grow rancid upon weak stomachs, and may prevent the good effect of the waters upon that organ; a thing much to be attended to.

The usual season for drinking the waters, is from the beginning of May to the latter end of October; but if the patient requires a longer perseverance, he may safely use them all the winter, as they are sound, upon repeated trials, to be equally good in all seasons.

I shall conclude this account of Buxton waters with observing, that there, as well as in most other places of public resort, much of the patient's recovery depends upon the change of air, diet, and company, and on that account every one ought to make those necessary assistants contribute, as much as possible, to his advantage.

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